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1ST SESSION

S. 3166

To prohibit official United States Government business from being conducted in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, to suspend foreign assistance to the Gaza Strip until Hamas no longer exercises authority over the Gaza Strip, and to require reports and impose sanctions with respect to the provision of services to Hamas, financial transactions that benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the use of human shields, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 30, 2023

Mr. CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To prohibit official United States Government business from being conducted in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, to suspend foreign assistance to the Gaza Strip until Hamas no longer exercises authority over the Gaza Strip, and to require reports and impose sanctions with respect to the provision of services to Hamas, financial transactions that benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the use of human shields, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Hamas Sanctions Act of 2023”.
- 4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 5 this Act is as follows:

See. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—SANCTIONS AND REPORTS WITH RESPECT TO
 PROVISION OF SERVICES TO HAMAS IN ALLIED COUNTRIES**

- Sec. 101. Definitions.
 Sec. 102. Statement of policy.
 Sec. 103. Report on provision of services to members of Hamas in allied countries; imposition of sanctions.

**TITLE II—LIMITATIONS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS IN AND
 ASSISTANCE TO THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP**

- Sec. 201. Prohibition on actions that would authorize conduct of official United States Government business in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.
 Sec. 202. Limitation on assistance to the Gaza Strip.
 Sec. 203. Expansion of prohibitions on assistance to the West Bank.

**TITLE III—SANCTIONS AND REPORTS WITH RESPECT TO
 TRANSACTIONS THAT BENEFIT IRAN**

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
 Sec. 302. Report on certain financial transactions that benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran; imposition of sanctions.
 Sec. 303. Prohibition on actions altering application of certain sanctions with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**TITLE IV—SANCTIONS AND REPORTS WITH RESPECT TO USE OF
 HUMAN SHIELDS**

- Sec. 401. Statement of policy.
 Sec. 402. Modification and extension of Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act.
 Sec. 403. Report on countering the use of human shields.
 Sec. 404. Recurring report on use of human shields by Iranian-funded terrorist groups.

1 **TITLE I—SANCTIONS AND RE-**
2 **PORTS WITH RESPECT TO**
3 **PROVISION OF SERVICES TO**
4 **HAMAS IN ALLIED COUN-**
5 **TRIES**

6 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this title:

8 (1) **ALLIED COUNTRY.**—The term “allied coun-
9 try” means—

10 (A) a country that is a member of the
11 North Atlantic Treaty Organization; or
12 (B) a country that has been designated as
13 a major non-NATO ally under section 517 of
14 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
15 2321k).

16 (2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign per-
17 son” means an individual or entity that is not a
18 United States person.

19 (3) **MEMBER OR AFFILIATE OF HAMAS.**—The
20 term “member or affiliate of Hamas” includes—

21 (A) an official, agent, member, or affiliate
22 of Hamas;

23 (B) an official, agent, member, or affiliate
24 of—

25 (i) the Palestine Islamic Jihad;

5 (iv) the Democratic Front for the Lib-
6 eration of Palestine;

7 (v) the Lion's Den;

8 (vi) Liwa al-Quds:

(vii) Liwa Fatemiyoun;

10 (viii) Liwa Zeynabiyoun; or

11 (ix) the Palestinian Mujahideen Move-
12 ment;

15 (D) any foreign person owned or controlled
16 by a person described in subparagraph (A) or
17 (B).

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for the permanent residence to the United States; or

15 SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

16 It shall be the policy of the United States to fully
17 implement and enforce sanctions against terrorism in
18 order to counter the activities of Hamas, including by de-
19 nying members or affiliates of Hamas the ability to oper-
20 ate or reside in the territories of allied countries.

21 SEC. 103. REPORT ON PROVISION OF SERVICES TO MEM-
22 BERS OR AFFILIATES OF HAMAS IN ALLIED
23 COUNTRIES: IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

24 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBERS OR AFFILIATES
25 OF HAMAS.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the

1 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consulta-
2 tion with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to
3 Congress a report listing all foreign persons currently
4 known to the United States to be a member or affiliate
5 of Hamas.

6 (b) REPORT ON PROVISION OF SERVICES TO MEM-
7 BERS OR AFFILIATES OF HAMAS IN ALLIED COUN-
8 TRIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
11 thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation
12 with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to
13 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
14 and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
15 of Representatives a report on the provision of serv-
16 ices to members or affiliates of Hamas in allied
17 countries.

18 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
19 graph (1) shall include—

20 (A) a list of allied countries in the territory
21 of which members or affiliates of Hamas are
22 known to operate or reside;

23 (B) a list of any foreign persons in an al-
24 lied country that provide services to members or
25 affiliates of Hamas, including—

6 (iv) the provision of facilities for meet-
7 ings; or

8 (v) personal banking services;

9 (C) for each country on the list required by
10 subparagraph (A), a determination of whether
11 allowing the provision of services to members or
12 affiliates of Hamas, including services described
13 in subparagraph (B), in the territory of the
14 country results in the country meeting the cri-
15 teria for designation as a state sponsor of ter-
16 rorism; and

22 (c) SANCTIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose
24 the sanctions described in paragraph (2) with re-

1 spect to each foreign person on the list required by
2 subsection (a) or (b)(2)(B).

3 (2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
4 scribed in this paragraph are—

5 (A) the sanctions applicable under Execu-
6 tive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relat-
7 ing to blocking property and prohibiting trans-
8 actions with persons who commit, threaten to
9 commit, or support terrorism); and

10 (B) inclusion on the list of specially des-
11 ignated nationals and blocked persons main-
12 tained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control
13 of the Department of the Treasury.

14 **TITLE II—LIMITATIONS ON OFFI-**
15 **CIAL BUSINESS IN AND AS-**
16 **SISTANCE TO THE WEST**
17 **BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP**

18 **SEC. 201. PROHIBITION ON ACTIONS THAT WOULD AU-**
19 **THORIZE CONDUCT OF OFFICIAL UNITED**
20 **STATES GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE**
21 **GAZA STRIP OR THE WEST BANK.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the en-
23 actment of this Act, the President may not take any action
24 described in subsection (c) if taking such action would au-
25 thorize the conduct of the official business of the United

1 States Government by employees, grantees, or contractors
2 thereof in the West Bank or Gaza Strip that would other-
3 wise be prohibited by the Global Terrorism Sanctions Reg-
4 ulations under part 594 of title 31, Code of Federal Regu-
5 lations, or the Foreign Terrorist Organizations Sanctions
6 Regulations under part 597 of that title.

7 (b) APPLICATION TO EXISTING ACTIONS.—Any ac-
8 tion described in subsection (c) that was taken before the
9 date of the enactment of this Act is rescinded.

10 (c) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—An action described in
11 this subsection is an action that reduces the application
12 of the Global Terrorism Sanctions Regulations under part
13 594 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, or the For-
14 eign Terrorist Organizations Sanctions Regulations under
15 part 597 of that title, including—

16 (1) any termination or waiver of the application
17 of sanctions;

18 (2) any licensing action; or

19 (3) any removal of any person from the list of
20 specially designated nationals and blocked persons
21 maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control
22 of the Department of the Treasury.

23 **SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE GAZA STRIP.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds described in
25 subsection (b) may be obligated or expended unless the

1 President, during the 90-day period immediately pre-
2 ceding such obligation or expenditure, transmitted written
3 certification to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
4 Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
5 House of Representatives that Hamas does not exercise
6 de facto authority over the Gaza Strip.

7 (b) FUNDS DESCRIBED.—The funds described in this
8 subsection are Federal funds appropriated for—

9 (1) assistance to the Gaza Strip; or
10 (2) contributions to the United Nations Relief
11 and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the
12 Near East, to any successor or related entity, or to
13 the regular budget of the United Nations for the
14 support of the United Nations Relief and Works
15 Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East or
16 a successor or related entity.

17 **SEC. 203. EXPANSION OF PROHIBITIONS ON ASSISTANCE
18 TO THE WEST BANK.**

19 Section 1004(a)(1) of the Taylor Force Act (22
20 U.S.C. 2378c-1) is amended by striking “that directly
21 benefits the Palestinian Authority”.

1 **TITLE III—SANCTIONS AND RE-**
2 **PORTS WITH RESPECT TO**
3 **TRANSACTIONS THAT BEN-**
4 **EFIT IRAN**

5 **SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this title:

7 (1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
8 son” means an individual or entity that is not a
9 United States person.

10 (2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—the term
11 “United States person” means—

12 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
13 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
14 United States; or

15 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
16 the United States or of any jurisdiction within
17 the United States, including a foreign branch of
18 such an entity.

19 **SEC. 302. REPORT ON CERTAIN FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**
20 **THAT BENEFIT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**
21 **IRAN; IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

22 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
25 nually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit

1 to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
2 ate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
3 House of Representatives a report on the violation
4 of sanctions imposed by the United States with re-
5 spect to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
7 graph (1) shall include the following:

8 (A) A list of foreign persons that—
9 (i) knowingly conducted or facilitated
10 any significant financial transaction with a
11 foreign person relating to funds trans-
12 ferred by foreign persons relating to any
13 agreement between the United States and
14 the Islamic Republic of Iran between Janu-
15 ary 1, 2023, and the date of the enactment
16 of this Act, that would be subject to the re-
17 strictions described in section 1245(d) of
18 the National Defense Authorization Act for
19 Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a(d))
20 but for the issuance of a waiver under
21 paragraph (5) of that section;

22 (ii) knowingly conducted or facilitated
23 any significant financial transaction with
24 the Central Bank of Iran or another Ira-
25 nian financial institution subject to sanc-

1 tions imposed by the United States for the
2 purpose of repatriating to the Government
3 of the Islamic Republic of Iran assets sub-
4 ject to the restrictions described in such
5 section 1245(d); or

(iii) knowingly engaged in transactions involving the exchange of Special Drawing Rights issued by the International Monetary Fund and held by or allocated to the Islamic Republic of Iran into United States dollars or another foreign currency.

(v) The current flag under which the vessel operates.

(vi) Any past flag under which the vessel operated.

5 (vii) All owners and operators of the
6 vessel.

14 (i) are fully aware of the sanctions, financial crimes, and reputational risks involved in continuing to provide services to such vessels or to allow such vessels to fly their flag; and

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22 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

1 Control, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
2 scribed in section 1245(d)(1)(A) of the National De-
3 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22
4 U.S.C. 8513a(d)(1)(A)) with respect to any financial
5 institution on the most recent list required by sub-
6 section (a)(2)(A).

7 (2) VESSELS.—The President shall—

8 (A) impose the sanctions described in Ex-
9 ecutive Order 13382 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; re-
10 lating to blocking property of weapons of mass
11 destruction proliferators and their supporters)
12 with respect to—

13 (i) each vessel identified under sub-
14 section (a)(2)(B); and

15 (ii) each owner or operator of such a
16 vessel identified under clause (vii) of that
17 subsection; and

18 (B) include each such vessel, owner, and
19 operator on the list of specially designated na-
20 tionals and blocked persons maintained by the
21 Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Depart-
22 ment of the Treasury.

1 **SEC. 303. PROHIBITION ON ACTIONS ALTERING APPLICA-**
2 **TION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT**
3 **TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of the en-
5 actment of this Act, the President may not take any action
6 described in subsection (c) if taking the action would sig-
7 nificantly alter the application of sanctions described in
8 subsection (d).

9 (b) APPLICATION TO EXISTING ACTIONS.—Any ac-
10 tion described in subsection (c) taken before the date of
11 the enactment of this Act is rescinded.

12 (c) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—An action described in
13 this subsection is—

14 (1) any termination or waiver of the application
15 of sanctions described in subsection (d);

16 (2) any licensing action with respect to such
17 sanctions; or

18 (3) any removal of any person from the list of
19 specially designated nationals and blocked persons
20 maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control
21 of the Department of the Treasury.

22 (d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
23 scribed in this subsection are sanctions under—

24 (1) section 1245(d)(1) of the National Defense
25 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C.
26 8513a(d)(1)); and

4 TITLE IV—SANCTIONS AND RE-
5 PORTS WITH RESPECT TO
6 USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS

7 SEC. 401. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

8 It shall be the policy of the United States to fully
9 implement and enforce sanctions against terrorist organi-
10 zations and other malign actors that use innocent civilians
11 as human shields.

12 SEC. 402. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF SANC-
13 TIONING THE USE OF CIVILIANS AS DE-
14 FENSELESS SHIELDS ACT.

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Sanctioning the
16 Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law
17 115-348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

21 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
22 following:

23 “(3) Each foreign person that the President de-
24 termines, on or after the date of the enactment of
25 the Hamas Sanctions Act of 2023—

1 “(A) is a member of Palestine Islamic
2 Jihad or is knowingly acting on behalf of Pal-
3 estine Islamic Jihad; and

4 “(B) knowingly orders, controls, or other-
5 wise directs the use of civilians protected as
6 such by the law of war to shield military objec-
7 tives from attack.”;

8 (2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g),
9 (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j),
10 respectively; and

11 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(e) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than
14 120 days after receiving a request from the chairman and
15 ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional
16 committees with respect to whether a foreign person meets
17 the criteria of a person described in subsection (b) or (c),
18 the President shall—

19 “(1) determine if the person meets such cri-
20 teria; and

21 “(2) submit a written justification to the chair-
22 man and ranking member detailing whether or not
23 the President imposed or intends to impose sanc-
24 tions described in subsection (b) or (c) with respect
25 to such person.”.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Sanctioning the
2 Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law
3 115–348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
5 graph (8); and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(7) PALESTINE ISLAMIC JIHAD.—The term
9 ‘Palestine Islamic Jihad’ means—

10 “(A) the entity known as Palestine Islamic
11 Jihad and designated by the Secretary of State
12 as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to
13 section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality
14 Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); or

15 “(B) any person identified as an agent or
16 instrumentality of Palestine Islamic Jihad on
17 the list of specially designated nationals and
18 blocked persons maintained by the Office of
19 Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the
20 Treasury, the property or interests in property
21 of which are blocked pursuant to the Inter-
22 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
23 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).”.

24 (c) SUNSET.—Section 5 of the Sanctioning the Use
25 of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–

1 348; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “De-
2 cember 31, 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2030”.

3 (d) SEVERABILITY.—The Sanctioning the Use of Ci-
4 vilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–348;
5 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY.”**

8 “If any provision of this Act, or the application of
9 such provision to any person or circumstance, is found to
10 be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the ap-
11 plication of that provision to other persons or cir-
12 cumstances, shall not be affected.”.

13 **SEC. 403. REPORT ON COUNTERING THE USE OF HUMAN
14 SHIELDS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
17 shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the
18 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the
19 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
20 tives a report that contains the following:

21 (1) A description of the lessons learned from
22 the United States and its allies and partners in ad-
23 dressing the use of human shields by terrorist orga-
24 nizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestine Is-

1 Islamic Jihad, and any other organization as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

3 (2) A description of a specific plan and actions
4 being taken by the Department of Defense to incorporate the lessons learned as identified in paragraph
5 (1) into Department of Defense operating guidance,
6 relevant capabilities, and tactics, techniques, and
7 procedures to deter, counter, and address the challenge posed by the use of human shields and hold
8 accountable terrorist organizations for the use of
9 human shields.

12 (3) A description of specific measures being developed and implemented by the United States Government to mobilize and leverage allied nations, including member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to deter, counter, and hold accountable terrorist organizations for the use of
13 human shields.

19 (4) The current status of joint exercises, doctrine development, education, and training on countering the use of human shields in multinational centers of excellence.

23 (5) The current status of participation of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian personnel in any multinational center

1 of excellence for the purposes of countering the use
2 of human shields.

10 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “multi-
11 national center of excellence” has the meaning given that
12 term in section 344 of title 10, United States Code.

13 SEC. 404. RECURRING REPORT ON USE OF HUMAN SHIELDS

14 BY IRANIAN-FUNDED TERRORIST GROUPS.

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
17 the President shall submit to the congressional defense
18 committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
19 Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
20 House of Representatives a report on the use of human
21 shields by Iranian funded terrorist groups.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
23 section (a) shall include—

24 (1) a list of Palestinian terrorist groups—

(B) over which Iran exerts undue influence;

7 (A) Hezbollah's Shura Council;

8 (B) Hezbollah's Executive Council;

9 (C) Hamas's Politburo;

10 (D) Hamas's Shura Council; and

11 (E) Palestine Islamic Jihad's Shura Coun-
12 cil;

(4) for every positive determination under paragraph (3), if sanctions have not been imposed on the foreign person under the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–348), an explanation why such sanctions were not imposed.

1 (c) RELEVANT REPORTING PERIOD DEFINED.—In
2 this section, the term “relevant reporting period” means—
3 (1) for the first report—
4 (A) in the case of members of Hamas or
5 Hezbollah, since the date of the enactment of
6 the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as De-
7 fenseless Shields Act (Public Law 115–348; 50
8 U.S.C. 1701 note); and
9 (B) in the case of members of Palestine Is-
10 lamic Jihad, since the date of the enactment of
11 this Act; and
12 (2) for subsequent reports, since the date of the
13 last report.

